



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 045054/0142

Applicant: Tetsuichiro YAMAMOTO et al.
Title: IMAGE READING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SAME
Serial No.: 09/840,910
Filed: April 25, 2001
Examiner: Unknown
Art Unit: 2614

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then either a certification or fee is required, and a certification is provided below. If neither of the first or second scenarios is the case, such as if a final Office Action or a notice of allowance has been mailed by the PTO (third scenario), then both a certification and fee are required, and in that case a certification is provided below and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that items of information A3 and A4 listed on the Form PTO-SB08 included with this Information Disclosure Statement were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement. Items of information A1 and A2 are U.S. patents that are counterparts to items of information A3 and A4.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

A translation of a portion of a Japanese Office Action that issued October 22, 2002 with respect to a counterpart Japanese patent application is provided below.

“Claims 1 to 9
Cited Literature 1

Claims 10 to 13
Cited Literature 1 to 2

Remarks
(Regarding Claims 1 to 9)

Described in Cited Literature 1 is the fact that, letting N be the number of sensor arrays, image information is read by setting even intervals between sensor arrays such that there are intervals 1, 2, ..., N-1 in an N surplus system, and by skipping an interval of N lines in the secondary scan direction. (Specifically, refer to paragraph {0025}.)

Thus, if the number of sensor arrays is 3, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive, for example, of setting the even intervals between sensor arrays at 4, and of reading the image information by skipping an interval of 3 lines in the secondary scan direction.

(Regarding Claim 10)

Described in Cited Literature 2 is the fact that, in an image reading device having six sensor lines, reading of the same reading position is duplicated by reading the image present at position 1 of document surface at time T1, and then reading the image present at position 4 of document surface at time T2. (Specifically, refer to paragraphs {0055} to {0059}.)

(Regarding Claims 11 to 13)

Described in Cited Literature 2 is the fact that the reading order of the image data is adjusted by having an A/D conversion circuit and an image memory. (Specifically, refer to paragraphs {0047} to {0054}.)

Also described in Cited Literature 2 is the fact that RGB gain values are adjusted. (Specifically, refer to paragraph {0068}.)

List of Cited Literature, etc.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09-163100
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-178513"

Applicant's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action are based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicants with, or an admission of, which is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form-SB08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

December 13, 2002
Date

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: December 13, 2002 (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/840,910
				Filing Date	April 25, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Tetsuichiro YAMAMOTO et al.
				Group Art Unit	2614
				Examiner Name	Unknown
				Attorney Docket Number	045054/0142
Sheet	1	of	1		

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OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.**